

LOCAL LABOR BODY PROPOSES WAY TO TREAT WITH UNEMPLOYED

There's real brotherhood in the way the Chicago Federation of Labor proposes to treat the problem of the unemployed. And it's a real practical way.

Recently the federation appointed a committee to investigate the unemployed problem. And that committee did not advance any long-haired theories concerning the problem.

But after the first two weeks of investigation they reported back to the labor body that the question was too important to jump at any conclusion in two weeks' time.

And the labor body instructed them to go out again and try to find some means towards helping the down-and-outs. And they did.

And they went among the high officials of the city and the county. But they found a shameful lack of interest in the unemployed among these men. The city authorities would refer them to the county, and the county authorities would refer them to the city. And so on.

But the committee found many things that would lighten the problem. They found that the city and county was allowing a great deal of possible work to stand.

So the committee went back to the federation and told what they had found. And the federation decided that if the high men of the city would do nothing they would at least take care of their own.

So, accordingly, they drew up the following resolution, a copy of which has been sent to every organization affiliated with the Chicago Federation of Labor:

"The very serious question of unemployment has been under consideration by the Chicago Federation of Labor for the past month.

"The Executive Board in conjunction with a special committee has the matter in charge, and recognizing that unemployment is not a local question, it must be dealt with in a practical way, if we intend to conserve our interests as organized workers, it will be necessary to define the real causes of unemployment and the remedy.

"The causes include: Unrestricted immigration, the 10-hour-day and 7-day week, improved machinery, convict labor, underpaid women and child labor, gambling in foodstuffs, etc.

"The remedy will mean organization and legislation, both of which are slow processes. It will take some time to get at the facts and present the matter so that it will be of service to organized labor, but the work will be pushed so that we may have action at the earliest possible moment.

"In the meantime, it is undisputed, that 100,000 workmen are out of work in Chicago, a large number of which are members of labor unions. But accurate information as to the exact number is not available at

present.

"The Federation of Labor has decided that the immediate needs of the out-of-work members of organized labor must and shall secure first and practical consideration.

"Following this decision, conferences were arranged with the county and city officials, to ascertain if public work could not be undertaken in order to relieve the situation.

"The result of these conferences show that the addition and extension of county institutions under the law must be let by contract and such work cannot be undertaken by the county.

"In the city railway terminals, pro-